

PATENT
3003-1010

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Jeremy MARSHALL et al.

Appl. No.: **NEW NATIONAL PHASE
APPLICATION IN THE
UNITED STATES** Group:

Filed: April 4, 2002 Examiner:

For: INTEGRATION OF A LANCETTE WITH ITS
CAPTURING AND REMOVING CAP

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

April 4, 2002

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation of the filing fee, the following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the rewritten Abstract of the Disclosure attached on a separate sheet attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute claims 1-8 as originally filed, which appear on pages 7-8, with claims 1-7 as filed in the Article 34 amendment of February 21, 2002. The pages containing claims 1-7 are marked "AMENDED SHEET" and are attached hereto. Following the insertion of claims 1-7, please amend the claims as follows:

Please amend the claims as follows:

--5.(Amended) A combined lancet and cap as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the interior of the cap has opposed projections (14) on its minor axial plane and the lancet body (2) has an abutment (7) behind which the projections (14) engage when the cap (3) is removed from a firing device and reverts to its natural shape, but which is clear of the projections (14) when the cap (3) is deformed and fitted to a firing device.

7.(Amended) A combined lancet and cap as claimed in claim 1, in combination with a firing device, characterised in that the rear end of the lancet body (2) is non-rotatively receivable by a holder in the firing device.--

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 7 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

The substitution of claims 1-8 has been done to merely place this national phase application in into the same condition as it was during Chapter II of the International Phase.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

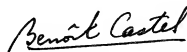
Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Benoit Castel, Reg. No. 35,041

745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297

BC/bam
Attachments

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

Abstract

Improvements relating to Combined Lancets and Caps

A lancet body (2) is integrally moulded with a cap (3) for a firing device, the cap concealing the needle tip (5). The cap (3) can be used to insert the lancet (1), which is held while the cap is twisted off. The cap (3) is then fitted to the firing device to provide an apertured platform to be held against the skin and through which the needle tip (5) will momentarily project. The cap (3) has to be deformed to fit, and on being removed and recovering its natural shape internal lugs (14) catch hold of the released lancet (1) and remove that as well.

— Figure 1. —

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) A combined lancet and cap as claimed in ~~any~~
~~preceding claim, claim 1,~~ characterised in that the interior of the
cap has opposed projections (14) on its minor axial plane and the
lancet body (2) has an abutment (7) behind which the projections
(14) engage when the cap (3) is removed from a firing device and
reverts to its natural shape, but which is clear of the
projections (14) when the cap (3) is deformed and fitted to a
firing device.

7. (Amended) A combined lancet and cap as claimed in ~~any~~
~~preceding claim, claim 1,~~ in combination with a firing device,
characterised in that the rear end of the lancet body (2) is non-
rotatively receivable by a holder in the firing device.

JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 04 APR 2002

7

Claims

1. A combined lancet and cap for a lancet firing device of circular form at its leading end, to which the cap (3) can be fitted to provide an apertured platform (11) to bear
5 against the user's skin and through which the tip of the lancet needle is momentarily projected when the device is fired, the cap (3) and lancet body (2) being integrally moulded in plastics material with the cap (3) concealing the needle tip but being breakable away from the body (2) to
10 expose that tip and then to be fitted to the firing device, and the cap (3) being adapted to capture the lancet as it is removed from the firing device after use, thereby removing the lancet as well with the needle tip safe within the cap, characterised in that the cap (3) is moulded with a gen-
15 erally elliptical open end portion (13) which requires lateral compression in its major axial plane to deform it to a circular shape capable of fitting to the circular leading end of a firing device.
2. A combined lancet and cap as claimed in Claim 1,
20 characterised in that the cap is adapted to engage a firing device by a screw thread.
3. A combined lancet and cap as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the cap is adapted to engage a firing device by a bayonet type fitting.
- 25 4. A combined lancet and cap as claimed in Claim 1, characterised in that the cap is adapted to engage a firing device by a snap fitting.
5. A combined lancet and cap as claimed in any preceding

claim, characterised in that the interior of the cap has opposed projections (14) on its minor axial plane and the lancet body (2) has an abutment (7) behind which the projections (14) engage when the cap (3) is removed from a firing device and reverts to its natural shape, but which is clear of the projections (14) when the cap (3) is deformed and fitted to a firing device.

6. A combined lancet and cap as claimed in Claim 5, characterised in that the lancet has a further abutment (8) to the rear of the first one, the projections (14) being adapted to engage between the abutments (7,8) when the cap (3) is removed from a firing device.

7. A combined lancet and cap as claimed in any preceding claim, in combination with a firing device, characterised in that the rear end of the lancet body (2) is non-rotatively receivable by a holder in the firing device.